

application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendment and the remarks that follow.

STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-43 are pending.

Claims 2, 4, 8, 12, 13, 16, and 34-42 are hereby cancelled.

Claim 43 is allowed.

Claims 1-7, 11-13, 25-29, and 33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Latocha et al. (5,790,371).

Claims 8-10, 14-24, 30-32, and 24-42 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Latocha et al. in view of Ohgami et al. (5,574,625).

OVERVIEW OF CLAIMED INVENTION

One or more sections on a housing of a portable computing device are selectively removed or folded away, thereby exposing a free edge of a computing display screen as well as electrical connectors and structural connectors. Two or more such devices are docked utilizing the exposed connectors such that the exposed screen edges abut. Upon docking, the devices recognize the new configuration and re-map the desktop area of the display into a single display for the combined device.

One embodiment of the present invention allows either, or both, the top edge or side edge of the housing to be simply pivoted underneath the device to expose the edge of the device screen. Electrical and structural connectors are exposed as well. The edges of the device are sharply angled, allowing the edge of the device to pivot under itself without adding any substantial thickness to the device. The two folding side sections are split at a 45-degree angle,

allowing for independent rotation of the sections, while still providing the maximum potential protection to the screen edge. When one side is folded down, the other edge extends beyond the screen edge, and therefore must be accommodated for in the mating device with a corresponding cut-out area. These male and female shapes provide the added advantage of a visual cue as to how the two devices connect.

In the Claims

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) and 103(a)

Claims 1-7, 11-13, 25-29, and 33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Latocha et al. (5,790,371).

Claims 8-10, 14-24, 30-32, and 24-42 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Latocha et al. in view of Ohgami et al. (5,574,625).

The claims have been amended to provide substantive structural elements of originally claimed and disclosed embodiments. The Latocha et al. and Ohgami references fail to provide or suggest the movable cabinet structure which enables coplanar abutment of similar portable processing devices. While the Ohgami reference does provide for a removable connector door (well known), the connectors and movable door are not configured to enable physical abutment of two similar display devices. The devices need to have a physical connection along the display surface, however, Ohgami is limited to plug-in type connectors (including cards or cords) on the backside of the device (also well known). As shown in Ohgami, the display surface supporting cabinet remains complete on the top surface 11, thus Ohgami could never allow the display edges of two devices to abut. Neither Latocha et al., nor Ohgami provides or suggests a teaching within the references themselves on how one would modify Ohgami to enable removal of the top

cabinet structure, nor would it have been obvious to have done so. Additionally, separate from the movable cabinet structure are physical mating structures (see original drawings - figure 2c (element 106a)) which assist in aligning the two structures together (neither of which are taught or suggested by the cited art). Also, both references are silent on synchronization before disconnection (claims 11, 24, and 33). Col. 1, starting with line 60+, does not appear to provide this function.

As the combination of Latocha et al. and Ohgami does not provide the claimed elements of the outstanding claims of the present invention and a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established, it is respectfully requested that the rejections be removed and the remaining claims passed to allowance with allowed claim 43.

Summary:

As has been detailed above, none of the references, cited or applied, provide for the specific claimed details of applicant's presently claimed invention, nor renders them obvious. It is believed that this case is in condition for allowance and reconsideration thereof and early issuance is respectfully requested.

As this amendment has been timely filed within the set period of response, no petition for extension of time or associated fee is required. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiencies in the fees provided to Deposit Account No. 09-0441.

If it is felt that an interview would expedite prosecution of this application, please do not
hesitate to contact applicant's representative at the below number.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Randy W. Lacasse". The signature is stylized with a large, circular initial "R" and a long, sweeping underline.

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APPENDIX A

1. (once amended) A portable computer display device including one or more mating sections for docking with similar portable computer display devices, said display device comprising:

a computer display with associated supporting cabinet structure;

sub B1
said associated supporting cabinet structure having one or more movable exterior sides, where one or more corresponding edges of said display are selectively exposed, said edges exposed by removing or temporarily displacing one or more of said movable exterior sides which protect said one or more exposed display edges, said supporting cabinet additionally comprising one or more structural connectors for structurally mating to said similar device;

A1
at least one electrical connector disposed within said associated supporting cabinet structure and proximate to said one or more exterior sides, said at least one electrical connector capable of connecting in a mating relationship with a corresponding electrical connector in said similar portable display device,

said one or more exposed display edges substantially abutting in a substantially coplanar configuration to a corresponding exposed display edge of said second similar portable device when said electrical connectors are connected and said computer display logically re-mapped to be part of a single display comprising the displays of both devices.

2. Please cancel.

3. (original) A portable computer display device including one or more mating sections for docking with similar portable computer display devices, as per claim 1, wherein said portable computer display device shares processing power when connected to said similar portable computer display device.

4. Please cancel.

AB 5. (once amended) A portable computer display device including one or more mating sections for docking with similar portable computer display devices, as per claim 4, wherein said display is substantially rectangular in shape and a first one of said two exterior sides extends along a length of said display while a second one of said two exterior ~~edges~~ sides extends along a width of said display.

6. (original) A portable computer display device including one or more mating sections for docking with similar portable computer display devices, as per claim 5, wherein said portable display device is connected to said similar portable display device along said first one of said two exterior sides providing a portrait orientation display.

7. (original) A portable computer display device including one or more mating sections for docking with similar portable computer display devices, as per claim 5, wherein said portable display device is connected to said similar portable display device along said second one of said two exterior sides providing a landscape orientation display.

8. Please cancel.

AB 9. (once amended) A portable computer display device including one or more mating sections for docking with similar portable computer display devices, as per claim 1, wherein said ~~one or more exposed display edges are exposed~~ said displacement is performed by folding said one or

more movable exterior sides which protect said one or more exposed display edges towards a back surface of said supporting cabinet.

AB 10. (once amended) A portable computer display device including one or more mating sections for docking with similar portable computer display devices, as per claim 9, wherein said one or more movable exterior sides are connected to said supporting cabinet structure via one or more hinges.

11. (original) A portable computer display device including one or more mating sections for docking with similar portable computer display devices, as per claim 1, wherein data processed by said connected devices is synchronized prior to disconnection of said devices.

12. Please cancel.

13. Please cancel.

14. (once amended) A portable computing device including a display having a display surface, said device capable of being mated with a similar device such that the display surfaces of each device functionally form a single display surface, said device comprising:

AC 1 a housing having a top surface enclosing said display, a bottom support surface and a plurality of side surfaces connecting said top surface and said bottom support surface;

said plurality of said side surfaces comprising one or more fixed surfaces and one or more movable surfaces, and

wherein when said movable surfaces are moved, said device is receptive to being physically mated in a substantially coplanar fashion to said similar device so as to form said single display.

15. (once amended) A portable computing device including a display having a display surface, said device capable of being mated with a similar device such that the display surfaces of each device functionally form a single display surface, as per claim 14, wherein when said device receives said similar device, the displays of said devices are logically re-mapped to provide said single display for said devices.

16. Please cancel.

17. (original) A portable computing device including a display having a display surface, said device capable of being mated with a similar device such that the display surfaces of each device functionally form a single display surface, as per claim 14, wherein said one or more movable surfaces comprises two movable surfaces.

18. (original) A portable computing device including a display having a display surface, said device capable of being mated with a similar device such that the display surfaces of each device functionally form a single display surface, as per claim 17, wherein said display is substantially rectangular in shape and a first one of said movable surfaces extends along a length of said display while a second one of said two movable surfaces extends along a width of said display.

19. (original) A portable computing device including a display having a display surface, said device capable of being mated with a similar device such that the display surfaces of each device functionally form a single display surface, as per claim 18, wherein said portable display device is connected to said similar portable display device along said first one of said two movable surfaces providing a portrait orientation display.

20. (original) A portable computing device including a display having a display surface, said device capable of being mated with a similar device such that the display surfaces of each device functionally form a single display surface, as per claim 18, wherein said portable display device is connected to said similar portable display device along said second one of said two movable surfaces providing a landscape orientation display.

21. (original) A portable computing device including a display having a display surface, said device capable of being mated with a similar device such that the display surfaces of each device functionally form a single display surface, as per claim 14, wherein said one or more movable surfaces are removable.

22. (original) A portable computing device including a display having a display surface, said device capable of being mated with a similar device such that the display surfaces of each device functionally form a single display surface, as per claim 14, wherein said one or more movable surfaces are foldable towards said back support surface.

23. (original) A portable computing device including a display having a display surface, said device capable of being mated with a similar device such that the display surfaces of each device

functionally form a single display surface, as per claim 22, wherein said one or more foldable surfaces are connected to said housing via one or more hinges.

24. (original) A portable computing device including a display having a display surface, said device capable of being mated with a similar device such that the display surfaces of each device functionally form a single display surface, as per claim 14, wherein said device synchronizes data processed by said mated devices prior to disconnection of said devices.

25. (once amended) A portable computer display device including one or more mating sections for docking with similar portable computer display devices, said display device comprising:

a computer display with associated supporting cabinet structure having a display surface;

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said associated supporting cabinet structure having ~~an exterior side~~ one or more movable side sections where a corresponding edge of said display is selectively exposed by displacing a movable side section;

at least one electrical connector disposed ~~on~~ within said movable side section housing along said edge ~~exterior side~~;

at least one physical mating element disposed on said cabinet ~~housing~~ along said exterior side;

wherein said electrical connector and mating element are disposed such that when said device is docked with a second similar portable display device, via a mating electrical connector and a mating element disposed along a side of said second device having a corresponding exposed display edge, said display edges are substantially contiguous and the display surfaces of said devices are substantially coplanar.

26. (original) A portable computer display device including one or more mating sections for docking with similar portable computer display devices, as per claim 25, wherein the displays of said connected devices are logically re-mapped to provide a single display for said connected devices.

27. (original) A portable computer display device including one or more mating sections for docking with similar portable computer display devices, as per claim 25, wherein said portable computer display device shares processing power when docked with said similar portable computer display device.

28. (once amended) A portable computer display device including one or more mating sections for docking with similar portable computer display devices, as per claim 25, wherein said display is substantially rectangular in shape said ~~exterior side~~ movable side section extends along a longer edge of said display such that when said portable display device is connected to said similar portable display device the displays provide a portrait orientation.

29. (once amended) A portable computer display device including one or more mating sections for docking with similar portable computer display devices, as per claim 25, wherein said display is substantially rectangular in shape and said ~~exterior side~~ movable side section extends along a shorter edge of said display such that when said portable display device is connected to said similar portable display device the displays provide a landscape orientation.

30. (once amended) A portable computer display device including one or more mating sections for docking with similar portable computer display devices, as per claim 25, wherein said exposed display edge is exposed by removing said movable side section ~~a supporting cabinet section~~ which extends along said display edge.

31. (once amended) A portable computer display device including one or more mating sections for docking with similar portable computer display devices, as per claim 25, wherein said exposed display edge is exposed by folding said movable side section ~~a supporting cabinet section~~ which extends along said display edge towards a back surface of said supporting cabinet.

32. (original) A portable computer display device including one or more mating sections for docking with similar portable computer display devices, as per claim 31, wherein said folding cabinet section is attached to said support cabinet via one or more hinges.

33. (original) A portable computer display device including one or more mating sections for docking with similar portable computer display devices, as per claim 25, wherein said portable computer display device synchronizes data processed by said connected devices prior to disconnection of said devices.

34-42. Please cancel

43. (allowed) A portable computing device including a display having a display surface, said device capable of being mated with a similar device such that the display surfaces of each device form a single display surface, said device comprising:

a housing having a back surface and at least first, second, and third exterior edges enclosing said display such that said display surface is exposed for viewing;

said first housing edge extending along a first edge of said display, a first end of said first housing edge adjoining a portion of said second housing edge extending beyond a second edge of said display, said first housing edge being foldable towards said back surface to expose said first display edge;

said portion of said second edge extending beyond said second edge of said display having a specified geometric shape when said first housing edge is folded towards said back surface;

said third edge including a reciprocal mating section at an end of said third edge adjoining a second end of said first housing edge opposite said first end, said reciprocal mating section having a geometric shape substantially identical to said specified geometric shape;

wherein when said first edge is folded towards said back surface, said portable device is capable of being mated with a second similar portable device utilizing said portion of said second edge extending beyond said second edge of said display and said reciprocal mating section such that said first display edge is adjacent an exposed display edge of said second similar portable device.